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April 23, 1998 (now abandoned), which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/513,435
(now issued as U.S. 5,781,449). --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all claims pending in the application, i.e., Claims 1-28, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and add the following new Claims 29-48.

29. (New) An apparatus for analyzing network activity, the apparatus comprising:
a packet capturing module, for accessing the packets traversing a network, the packets
having source and destination addresses of network devices exclusive of the apparatus, and
5 for filtering the packets to produce packet data, wherein the packet capturing module
produces the packet data by retrieving a predetermined address, comparing the predetermined
address to the source and destination addresses for a current packet, and retaining the current
packet when one of the source and destination addresses for the current packet matches the
predetermined address;

10 a packet analyzing module, in communication with the packet capturing module, for
producing decoded packet data, wherein the decoded packet data includes a plurality of
patterns of packets, and for producing transaction data from the decoded packet data,
wherein the transaction data is derived from a time value for identifying a substantially optimal
collection of patterns of packets indicative of transaction instances; and

15 a data management module, in communication with the packet capturing module and
the packet analyzing module, for analyzing the packet data and the transaction data to provide
an indication of network usage.